

THE LORD'S DAY

Worship

December 17, 2023



NORTH MACON
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Important Reminders:

Turn off all cellular devices during the worship service.
Do not bring food or drink into the sanctuary.

*And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;
for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him.
Luke 1:76*

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Hunter Stevenson

Introit

Call to Worship

Luke 1:68-75

Pastor: Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come, and has redeemed his people!

People: **He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, just as he said through his holy prophets of long ago,**

Pastor: Salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us—

People: **To show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our father Abraham:**

Pastor: To rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness, before him all our days.

*Praise Hymn

#196 - *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

* *those who are able please stand*

*Confession of Faith

Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q 21 & 22

Q. 21. Christian, who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

A. The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ,
who being the eternal Son of God,
became man, and so was, and continues to be,
God and man in two distinct natures,
and one person, forever.

Q. 22. How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?

A. Christ, the Son of God, became man,
by taking to himself a true body,
and a reasoning soul,
being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
in the womb of the Virgin Mary,
and born of her,
yet without sin. Amen.

The Westminster Shorter Catechism expresses the truths of the Bible in summary form. It was comprised at the Westminster Assembly in London (1643-1648), and it sets forth the doctrinal standards of our church and our denomination, the Presbyterian Church in America

Call to Prayer

Isaiah 40:3-5

A voice of one calling: In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Rev. Bob Brunson

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Offertory

Sing We Now of Christmas

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:1-25

*Hymn of Preparation

#211- *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*

Prayer for Covenant Children

Rev. Hunter Stevenson

*Children's Church is for children 4 years old through 1st grade.
Please check-in your child for Children's Church at the registration station located in the narthex.
Also, we have a "Cry Room" for our young families where you can see & hear the service.*

Sermon

The Harbinger
Luke 1:57-80

Rev. Hunter Stevenson

*Hymn of Response

#215 – *While by the Sheep We Watched at Night*

*Benediction

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Doxology

#731

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Postlude

Visitors:

Welcome! Please feel free to speak with one of the pastors or elders after the service. They would be glad to answer any questions you may have and would enjoy meeting you. *If you desire to receive email communications from the church, please email Monni Parrish at monni@nmpc.net and she will add you to the distribution list.*

• The Preached Word •

Title: *The Harbinger*

Text: Luke 1:57-80

Pastor: Rev. Hunter Stevenson

pg. 831 in your pew Bible

Pray for Our Members:

Dick & Sandy Manwaring
Diane McCallum
Matt & Hannah McCommon
Paul & Debbie McCommon

Pray for Our Missionary of the Month:

Tomo Ito is also a part of a ministry that helps the Warm Springs community to flourish in Madras, Oregon serving with Sacred Road Ministries.

Pray for Those in Need:

Expecting: Katie Singleton (12/23), Bonnie Andree (1/7) & Ember Bentley (3/13)
Newborns: Eden Lyles, Jack Henning, June Adams, Ryder Newell, Eleanor Freel & Ben McKenzie
Members Caring for Loved Ones: Monni Parrish (dad); Joseph Egloff (mom); Rana Munna (mom); Margaret Rogers (mom); Pam Cook (mom); Rod Baker (Bess)
Recovering/Sick: Dick Manwaring (stroke), Bess Baker (stroke)
Bereaved: Susana, Sarah Jane & Oscar Sandefur (Chris); Beth McSween (John); Cathy Smith (JC); Madeline Thompson (mom & sister); Mary Clare Freel (dad); Kate Harrison (sister); Carol Dawson (sister); John Dukes (dad); Lynn & Aaron Hogg & Melissa Newell (Jerry); Brad Bibb (mom); Helen Johnson (mom); Amelia Smith (mom); Rebecca Lober (dad); Becky Gorman (Randy)
Our Leaders: the Session, Diaconate, and Staff; our local, state and federal governmental officials

North Macon Presbyterian Church

NMPC exists to glorify and enjoy God, love and equip His people for the work of His ministry, and make disciples of all nations.

More specifically, NMPC seeks to glorify God and make disciples by...

Providing a Home

- Warm & welcoming
- Connected & caring for one another
- Vulnerable & gracious

Proclaiming the Gospel

- Christ-centered worship & expository preaching
- Classes to educate, encourage & equip
- Small Groups to disciple & deepen relationships

Partnering with Ministries

- North Macon Preschool
- *RUF, STF, CCS, EE, CC and OOD*
- 20 Missionaries & 2 short-term Mission Trips
- Central GA Presbytery & General Assembly

*Local Ministries

RUF – Reformed University Fellowship (Mercer, Wesleyan, CSU & VSU)

STF – Strong Tower Fellowship

CCS – Covenant Care Services

EE – Evangelism Explosion

CC – Campus Clubs

OOD – Out of Darkness

A Further Explanation

Providing a Home

We believe “Providing a Home” would meet one of the unique needs of those living in North Macon. We tend to be isolated and lonely. We tend to live fragmented and disconnected lives, and advances in technology seems to be making matters worse. We tend to pride ourselves on “having it all together” and giving the appearance that we do not need anyone or anything.

We desperately need a place where we can take off our masks, admit our sin and failures, and be received and accepted. We long for a genuine community where we can be loved as we really are, and, in turn, love others as they really are. NMPC is committed to be that place—a home—where folks are welcomed, embraced, and loved.

Proclaiming the Gospel

NMPC’s primary task is to “Proclaim the Gospel”, for the Gospel is the power of God for salvation. To spell it out more particularly, we are committed to preach the good news of Jesus Christ, in the whole counsel of Scripture, by the power of the Holy Spirit, with Reformed theological convictions, in a caring and gracious community, so that we might present everyone perfect in Christ. Therefore, in every worship service, every Sunday school class, every small group, and every ministry of the church, we are committed to proclaiming the Gospel as of chief importance for the transformation of lives.

Partnering with Ministries

NMPC is committed to carrying the good news of the Gospel—in word and deed—into our community and around the world. We seek to do so, not only through our own ministries, but also through strategic partnerships with ministries in our community and with missionaries around the globe. We are committed to **pray** for, **partner** with, and **participate** in these ministries so that we might make disciples of Jesus Christ of all nations.

• Christmas Poinsettias •

To the Glory of God and in Memory of:

John McSween
Charlotte Laurens
Jean Snow

Mark & Meg Baxter

Janice & Jim Bealle

Rodger, Tricia & Ben Barton

Willard Boyett

Donna Boyett, Nicholas & Abigail McCullough,
Eric, Jennifer & Anderson Hornick

Charlotte Laurens
Jo-Bess Grenga

Carol Dawson

Thomas Alexander

Eric & Mary Clare Freel

Mr. & Mrs. J. Philip Elder
Mr. & Mrs. John B. Gamble
Mrs. Jim Bruce
Mrs. Jim Grier

Mr. & Mrs. Jim Gamble

Betty Vance

Mia Geiger

Dan H. Gibson
Mr. & Mrs. James W. Robertson

Barbara Gibson & family

Charles & Oneida Gibson
B. Gene & Norma Brown
(parents of Jamie & Cindy Gibson)

Jamie & Cindy Gibson

Randy Gorman

Becky Gorman

Kamron Elijah Ward

The Griffin Family

John & Elizabeth Grimsley
John & Faye Lee

Ed & Peggy Grimsley

Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Ham, Sr.

Neal & Willa Ham

Jay & Benjamin Hawkins	Jason, Allison, Benjamin & Patton Hawkins
Robert & Evelyn Donnelly Jerry Hogg	Lyn & Aaron Hogg, Melissa Newell Lyn & Aaron Hogg; Maddie Vinson Melissa & Dustin Newell, Harley, Emerson, Lakelyn, Ryder
Joe & Fru Garrison Our Parents & Joanne Johansen	The LaPish Family
Isabel & John P. Tucker; John P. Tucker, Jr. Eunice and Buddy Lee	George & Sally Lee
Earnest A. Lange (Rebecca's Dad)	Bill & Rebecca Lober
Connie Manwaring George Watt	Dick & Sandy Manwaring
Jimmy McCallum Jamie McCallum Jackson	Diane McCallum
Buck Ream	Boo, Rebecca, Anna Helen & Michael McKelvey, Don & Heidi Ream
John McSween	Beth McSween
Dr. & Mrs. V.W. Parrish Mrs. Anne Asbell	The Charlie Parrish Family
Major & Mrs. Walter "Ed" Norwood Reverend & Mrs. Kenneth Goreveatte	The Pyles Family
Anna & Francis Daves Helen & Donald Ream	Liz Ream
Pauline Stevenson Martha Trupia	The Stevenson Family
Peggy Timberlake	Timberlake Family
Harry, Lola & Ronnie Hatfield Albert, Doris & Mike Timms Lester Westbrooks	John & Ann Timms
Jim Kennedy	David & Murray Todd

• Christmas Poinsettias •

To the Glory of God and in Honor of:

Rev. Brett & Bartges Barbee
Rev. Hunter & Heather Stevenson

Cederick Andrews

Mrs. Charlie Pye
Mrs. Josh Buckner
Mrs. Charlie Parrish
Mrs. John McSween
Mrs. Buck Ream
Mrs. Albert Luce

Anonymous

Rev. & Mrs. Hunter Stevenson
Rev. & Mrs. Bob Brunson
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Adams
Mrs. & Mrs. Mark Baxter
Rev. & Mrs. David Todd
Mr. & Mrs. Paul McCommon
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy James
Mr. Joe Timberlake

Mr. & Mrs. Bert (Anna) Barnes, Bo & Hatch
Mr. & Mrs. John (Bonnie) Andree, Noah

Naomi Barnes

Terry & Donna Rohn

Rodger, Tricia & Ben Barton

Hunter & Heather Stevenson
Kathy Pye
Monni Parrish
Melanie Buckner
Bob & Karen Brunson
Liz Ream
Beverly & Billy Adams

Meg & Mark Baxter

Beverly & Billy Adams

Elizabeth, Cory, Will, Maisie & Reed Bennett
Denby, Preston, Paul, Anne Preston, Betty, Mellie Rose & Andy Heard
Jeanie Beth, David, Barrett, Raleigh & Lily Baxter
John & Ellie Dukes
Lauren Price

Jake, Laura, Waylon, Willie & June Adams

Debi Reed, Women's Ministry Coordinator	Bible Study Team
With thanks for our new church family at NMPC	Bob & Karen Brunson
Melanie Buckner	Glenn & Deloris Cross
Kate Darley	Cathe Dondes
James Grace Gibson	Barbara Gibson
Everett & Hudson Gibson	
Dr. & Mrs. William H. Goodson, Jr.	Neal & Willa Ham
Juliana Hawkinson	Mr. & Mrs. Greg Hawkinson
Our Sons, Gary & Stephen	Bill & Rebecca Lober
Tommy James	Betty Luce
Rob & Anne Morton	
Heather Stevenson	Beth McSween
Karen Brunson	
Our Pastors & Staff	Rob & Anne Morton
The Parrish Family	Jan Odom
Mary Jane Leggett	
John & Ann Timms	Parrish Family
Joyce "Granny" Pyles	Maggie & Katie Pyles
Maggie & Katie Pyles	Jack & Sara Pyles
Liz Ream	Boo, Rebecca, Anna Helen & Michael McKelvey; Don & Heidi Ream
North Macon Pre-School Staff & Committee	Holly Shepley
Pat Jenkins	Shepley Family
Heather Stevenson	Hunter Stevenson
Liz Ream	The Stevenson Family
The Parrish Family	John & Ann Timms
Deloris Westbrook	
Our Children & Grandchildren	David & Murray Todd
Kathy Pye	

• Discipleship Opportunities •

NMPC Men's Small Groups Winter/Spring - 2024

Bible Study

A Study of First Samuel - Led by Bert Barnes & Steven Bloodworth. Will meet on Tuesday's at 6:15 am at NMPC. Starts Tuesday, January 9th.

A Study of James - Led by Rick Funk and Josh Buckner. Will meet on Thursday's at 6:45am at NMPC. Starts Thursday, January 11th.

Christian Living for Men

Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian Community - led by Charlie Parrish. Will meet on Sunday evenings at 6:15 pm at NMPC. Starts Sunday, January 7.

What Did You Expect?: Redceming the Realities of Marriage - led by Cal Garretson. Will meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm at NMPC. Starts Wednesday, January 10th.

Counterfeit Gods - led by Howard Reed & Tommy James. Will meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm at NMCP. Starts Wednesday, January 10th.

Winter/Spring Sunday School

Children, Youth and Adults classes will resume on January 7th a 9:30 am. Details will follow in the next few weeks.

Wednesday Night Activities

We will resume Wednesday Night Dinner & Activities on January 10th, 2024.

• Financial Update •

November 30, 2023

General Operations		Faith Promise for Missions	
2023 Receipts:	\$ 1,176,612	Paid out June 30:	\$ 28,050
2023 Expenses:	\$ 1,194,689	to support 18 missionaries	
		Paid out October 31:	\$ 30,550
		to support 19 missionaries	
		Cash Available	\$ 5,267

• Announcements •

Monday Morning Prayer - We will gather for prayer at 9 AM tomorrow morning.

Christmas Eve - Our Christmas Eve Candlelight worship service will be at 5:00 PM.

Strong Tower - Strong Tower is collecting new and gently used cold weather clothing and bedding to give away at Pleasant Hill. Please see Amy Drummond to donate, take to Strong Tower on Tuesday and Thursdays or put in the boxes provided here in the foyer.

Perspectives on the World Christian Movement - Perspectives is a 15-week discipleship course designed to help you find your place in God's global purpose. It's an intensive class taught by 15 instructors who will speak from the biblical, historical, cultural, and strategic "perspectives" on fulfilling the Great Commission. The class will be held on Sundays from 4:00-6:30 PM, beginning January 7, at The Annex at Ingleside on Riverside. Visit their website (Perspectives.org) to learn more and to register for the class.

Flowers - The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in honor of the 57th wedding anniversary of Charles & Patricia Hughes.



NORTH MACON

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mission

To glorify and enjoy God, love and equip His people for the work of His ministry, and make disciples of all nations.

Session

Cal Garretson²⁵

Ed Grimsley^{23*}

Neal Ham^{24*}

Tommy James^{25*}

Paul McCommon²³

Rob Morton²³

Charlie Parrish²⁵

Howard Reed²³

Diaconate

Joshua Buckner²⁵

Lee Burch^{23*}

Rick Funk²⁵

Hays Fyke^{25*}

*The number indicates the officer's class; *indicates the officer is at the end of a 2nd term and will roll off*

Staff

Every Member, *Ministers*

Hunter Stevenson, *Senior Pastor*

Bob Brunson, *Executive Pastor*

Mark Ballard, *Youth Director*

Bryce Little, *Youth Assistant*

Megan Cathey, *Children's Ministry
Director*

Kathy Pye, *Church Secretary*

Monni Parrish, *Administrator,
Financial Director & Pianist*

Melanie Buckner, *Music Director*

Holly Shepley, *North Macon
Preschool Director*

5707 Rivoli Drive, Macon, GA 31210 | Phone: 478.477.7777 | Website: www.nmpc.net

North Macon belongs to the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), a denomination seeking to be Faithful to the Scriptures, True to the Reformed Faith, and Obedient to the Great Commission.